

was in earnest, though the King and his son were only too eager to help, they were probably not a little afraid of the knights of the shires, and other powerful supporters of the heretics. In 1410 an artisan, whom they ventured to call to account, had the courage of his opinions and went to the stake. His name was John Badby ; he was one of the West-country Lollards, a tailor of Evesham, in the diocese of Worcester. Snatched away from his humble trade in the market town on Avon banks, he was confronted in London with the whole majesty of Church and State, two Archbishops, eight Bishops, the Duke of York, and the Chancellor of England. Yet he did not swerve from his opinion that \* Christ sitting at supper could not give his disciples his living body to eat.' A more severe trial was still before him. In Smithfield Market he found the faggots piled up round the stake, and the heir to the throne standing by them. Young Prince Henry, although he indulged in wild and frivolous revels, was at the same time deeply engaged in politics, and acted as leader of the Church party. A genuine but simple piety of the medis&val type fitted him well to play the part of the last King of Chivalry. Though he thought it his duty to persecute, he was not cruel, and could not unmoved see Badby go to his fate. He argued with him long and earnestly, making him promises of life and money if only he would recant. It was a remarkable and significant scene. The hope and pride of England had come in person to implore a tailor to accept life, but he had come in vain. At last the pile was lit. The man's agonies and contortions were taken for signals of submission. Henry ordered the faggots to be pulled away, and renewed his offers and entreaties, but again to no effect. The flames were set a second time, and the body disappeared in them for ever. Henry the Fifth could beat the French at Agincourt, but there was something here beyond his understanding and beyond his power, something before which Kings and Bishops would one day learn to bow.<sup>1</sup>

As soon as old Henry was dead, and young Henry seated on the throne, a step was taken which showed that the new King intended to crush Lollardry once and for all. A man

<sup>1</sup> Walsm ii. 282 ; Wilkins, iii. 325-8 ; Bamsay, i. 125-7.